



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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PRESS RELEASE

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Abundance of Connecticut Crops Makes for Fabulous Fourth Picnic Fare

Hartford, CT/June 27, 2006—Planning a holiday picnic or party for the Fourth of July weekend? You need look no farther than your local farmer for an abundance of flavorful menu options.

Connecticut farmers are proud to offer the first native sweet corn in New England this year, just in time for the holiday weekend. Local summer squash also will be available, as will carrots, broccoli, beets, radishes, lettuce, and greenhouse tomatoes, all for making colorful and nutritious salads and sides.

Feature a hearty helping of Connecticut Grown seafood – clams and oysters are favorites – then finish it off with a red, white, and blue dessert of native strawberries, raspberries, and blueberries (topped by local yogurt or cream), and you may find the only items missing are the tablecloth and napkins!

The heavy rains may have dampened spirits, but they certainly have not prevented the crops from proliferating. In fact, most are right on schedule or even early.

“Our farmers have had to work harder – and smarter – this year,” says Rick Macsuga of the Connecticut Department of Agriculture. “But most of them have been in this business for a long, long time, and have learned how to deal with all kinds of weather conditions. They know how to grow a quality product, regardless of what Mother Nature throws their way.”

If the season’s strawberry crop is any indication, consumers can look forward to superb quality all summer long. This year’s berries have excellent in terms of size, juiciness, and flavor.

In the next few weeks, expect to see native peaches, cherries, beans, garlic, cucumbers, and always-anticipated field tomatoes join the list of Connecticut Grown crops available at local farm stands and farmers’ markets across the state.

For a complete listing of farmers’ markets in Connecticut, visit the Department of Agriculture’s website at <http://www.ct.gov/doag/cwp/view.asp?a=1368&q=259134>.

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